

## Teaching Chinese

About two years ago, I start to teaching Chinese in Westside Chinese School. I got my favorite type of the student, The student they do not speak or very little Chinese at home. I married an American husband ( non Chinese at all). My two kids does not get chance to learn a lot of Chinese from me because my working schedule. I understand second language learning is different. American kids, even the Chinese kids they born in here, are have less chance to practice Chinese because their all speaking English in their daily life. How to teach Chinese in American classrooms? This make me very interested in.

I am teaching Level one. I think first level is most important. I introduce the sound and tone of Chinese, the stroke of the Chinese writing, building vocabulary with Chinese culture. I feel it is important role for me. I have the ability to combine American and Chinese culture. I was born in Shanghai China and I finished my collage degree in China. I am familiar my education all with heritage Chinese. Although, I did not get chance to teach Chinese language as heritage language. It is very different to teach between Heritage language and Chinese as a second language. Both learning are listening, reading, speaking and writing, but the order should be different.

Teaching Chinese language as a heritage, we need focus on reading and writing. Learning the new vocabulary and by how many way to use them and make sentences by writing, then you listen and say the sentence to see if it is sounds right an with correct grammar. We teach following Chinese culture.

Memorizing is most important. Student will get test on every cheaper.

Teaching Chinese language as a second language, we need focus on how the student will archive in this year. Teaching student speaking with correct tone and sentence and listening, understanding first. Use the knowledge they want to proceed their each individuals goal. Following with reading and writing to help them memorize the leaning process. Backward planning design will make sure the student use the knowledge they know to achieve the goal and connect their skills. Student can use it after they learned. I am teaching "Better Chinese" text book. My goal is how to connecting the word or sentence they learned. Make an easy transaction on their goal. I have one project for our student, the topic is My Family. They will use a poster to introduce their family member by using the lesson they learned. This way, they can use it in the daily life and they will remember the Chinese they learned in a whole year. I will give a lot of class social time to let student interview each other. Writing Chinese seems very difficult for level one but not in my class. Writing Chinese is their favorite. Reading text book and challenge ( read Chinese without pinyin) is my student get reward time. They like competition and get reward.

All of these teaching, I think most important is get student interested in learning Chinese, have a lot fun while they are learning and improve their social skill in the classroom, in the school.

Feng Juan Graves

[Juanitagraves@gmail.com](mailto:Juanitagraves@gmail.com)

tel: 310-663-9286 (cel), 310-828-1631(H)

